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CITY OF OAKLAND
POLICE DEPARTMENT

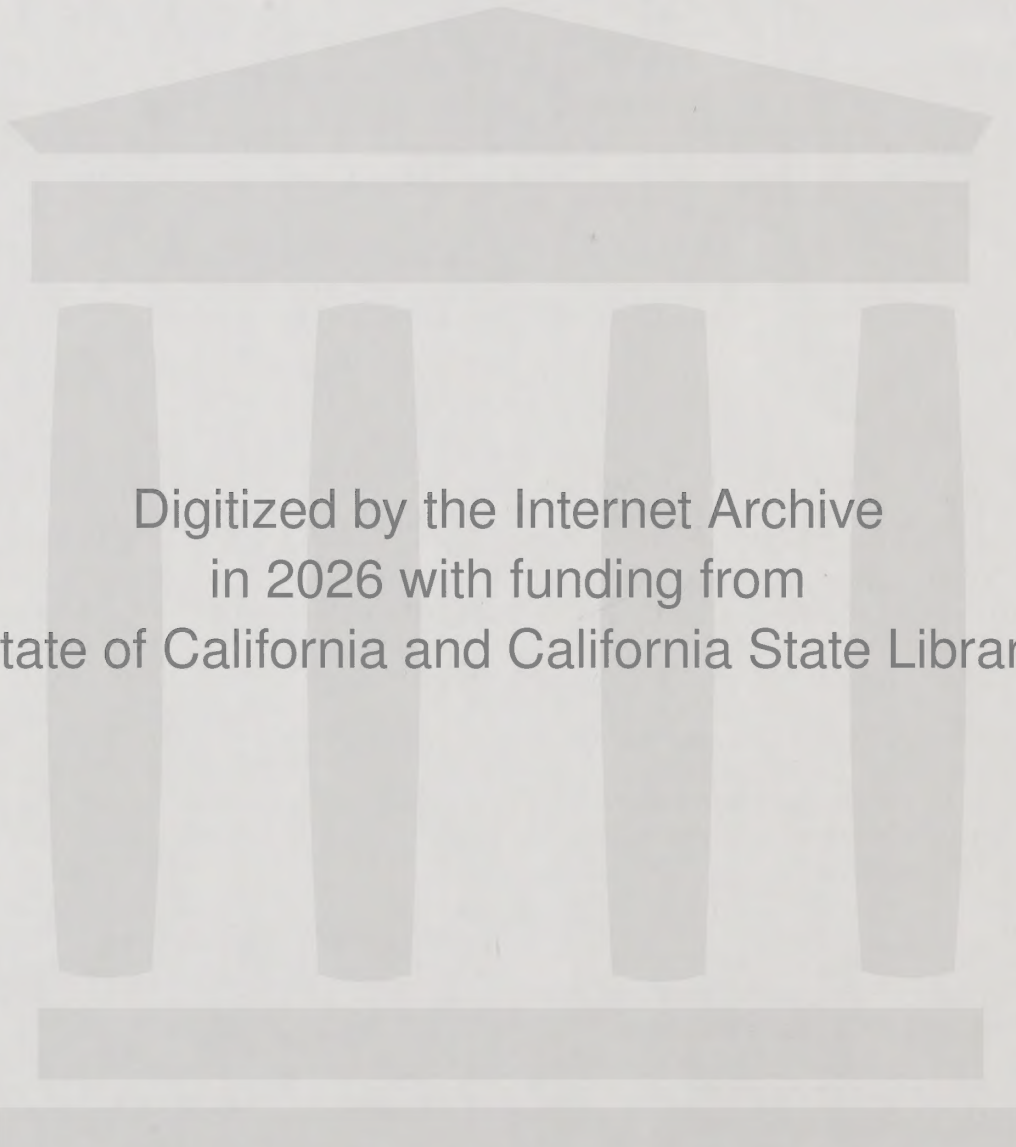
**OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
HISTORY 1930 - 1941
(PART 5)**

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OPD HISTORY: Part 5

1930 to December 7, 1941

by

Phil McArdle

The Great Depression

In the closing passages of his inaugural address, on March 4, 1929, President Hoover said,

Ours is a land rich in resources, stimulating in its glorious beauty, filled with millions of happy homes, blessed with comfort and opportunity. In no nation are the institutions of progress more advanced. In no nation are the fruits of accomplishment more secure...I have no fear for the future of our country. It is bright with hope.

Americans believed they had good reasons for facing the future with confidence. The amazing prosperity of the 1920s completed the transformation of the United States from a rural to an urban nation, and, internationally, from a debtor to a creditor nation. Success produced soaring optimism, and many people thought the nation had achieved a "permanent plateau of prosperity."

And yet...

- Prices for agricultural products dropped steadily during the decade. Between 1920 and 1929, farm income fell from \$15½ billion to \$5 billion annually.
- Waves of unemployment afflicted industrial workers, especially in the textile manufacturing, coal mining, and shipbuilding industries.
- Consumer spending slowed down as the decade ended. Manufacturers expressed concern about accumulating inventories of unsold products.
- The stock market became increasingly speculative. By mid-1929, many stocks sold for far more than their dividends justified, and millions of shares were bought on low margins (the equivalent of buying by signing promissory notes).



October 29, 1929: Crowds besiege the New York Stock Exchange.
This scene was repeated in Oakland and every other city in the country.

The vast boom of the 1920s ended abruptly with the terrifying stock market crash of Thursday, October 29, 1929. An Oakland broker described the crash as "the worst break in the security markets this country has ever seen." Stocks went down, rallied, and then fell further. By late December, the losses in the stock market came to \$40 billion, and the total value of stock had decreased by 40%.

Spokesmen for government and business maintained (in what came to sound like a threnody) that "business conditions are fundamentally sound," but the debacle of October 29th spread through the economy like a deadly virus. One after another the indicators of economic activity turned down, and stayed down. By the end of the year, the great economic depression of the 1930s, one of the central events of American history, had begun.

Vast numbers of men and women were unemployed, machines stood idle, and the general level of economic activity declined severely -- became, in the language of economists, "depressed." The depression permeated national, state, and local life. No person or organization completely escaped it.

National Impact

By 1932, when President Hoover's term of office ended, the following measures of economic disaster (in addition to a continuing swoon in the price of stock) had been tabulated:

- the lowest farm produce prices in history,
- 12 million people unemployed,
- 5,000 bank failures,
- 32,000 commercial failures, and
- a decline in national income from \$80 billion to \$40 billion annually.

California

Between 1929 and 1932, employment in California dropped 41%, payrolls fell by 53%, exports through the ports sank 53.6%, and imports tumbled 65.5%. There were more bank failures between January 1930 and June 1932 than in the previous twenty years. As the banks struggled, they foreclosed thousands of mortgages.

Oakland

The depression struck Oakland almost immediately. In a sign of things to come, on October 25, 1929, four days before the market broke, City Auditor Harry G. Williams advised the City Council that a shortfall in revenues would occur "of \$100,000 less than expected from four sources alone" -- the police courts, permits, licenses, and the City Auditorium. He also expressed uneasiness about other sources of City revenue.

At first, people failed to understand -- or tried to deny -- the seriousness of the crash. Facts were reported but salted with misleading optimism. Here, for example, a Tribune financial editor, tried to assess the damage early in 1930:

...during the actual days of the crash, thousands of people crowded the offices of local brokers and avidly read the latest news...When it was seen, however, that conditions were fundamentally sound and that only paper profits had been thrown into the discard, the public returned to its work and its play, and even to watching the ticker tell its everlasting story of hope...While the market crash was a serious thing to many hundreds of East Bay people...there is no prospect that trading in meritorious stocks will be lessened in the slightest...

But Oakland was badly hurt. The Tribune Yearbooks recorded continuing decreases in economic activity in all areas. Two important indicators of local business activity, new industries and the issuance of building permits, showed the following collapse:

	<u>New Industries</u>	<u>New Building Permits*</u>
1928	126	5,836
1929	118	4,754
1930	67	3,820
1931	55	3,270

*In 1925, at the peak of the building boom, 13,839 were issued.

By 1932, as Beth Bagwell wrote,

Business no longer talked about growth; it concentrated on survival...jobs across the board were lost as the lack of a market affected shippers, brokers, packers, and all other 'middleman' operations...The Alameda County Welfare Council increased its family case load by 800% between 1929 and 1932...

An Oakland stock market analyst wrote candidly, "Trading on the local security exchange has been materially reduced." Indeed, he wrote, "With the year 1931 likely to go into history as the most disturbing in all of the financial history of the United States, it is advisable...that a review of its activities be confined to an expressed hope for the future."

Reform: The City Manager System

During the financial collapse, Oakland also endured a major political crisis. In the aftermath of a paving contract scandal which drove three councilmen from office (and one into prison), a demand arose for municipal reform. More than 35,000 people signed petitions for Charter amendments to replace the commission system with a city manager form of government. Even Mayor Davie supported the change, saying the commission system had become "obsolete."

The reform was opposed by a group of "City Hall insiders" led by a long-time ally of Mayor Davie, City Attorney Preston Higgins. The Police Department was neutral. When a reporter asked Captain Thorvald Brown how the police stood on the issue, he answered "Members of the police department are interested in the amendments for the possible effect on their positions but have no organized opinion on them."

On November 4, 1930, the reformers won a sweeping victory. Oakland was divided into nine council districts, and one councilman was to be chosen by the others to serve as mayor. The new system limited the Mayor and the City Council to a policy making role, and vested the day to day supervision of City departments in the City Manager.

Mayor Morcom and Manager Carr

Fred Morcum, a florist, won the most votes and became the new mayor. He made more than 200 ceremonial appearances at public functions but was disappointed by how little real power he had under the new system.*

The new council members met with civic leaders (including Joseph Knowland) and selected a City Manager before taking office. They chose Ossian Carr, who had a successful record as manager of Cadillac, Michigan; Niagara Falls, New York; Dubuque, Iowa; and Fort Worth, Texas.

Chief Drew announced the change to the members of the Department in the weekly Police Bulletin:

*Mayor Morcum (1878-1951) decided not to run for re-election in 1933. "Having to spend considerable of your time on your fellow citizens' business interferes with your own," he said ruefully. In 1934 he filed for bankruptcy. In 1941, however, he was elected to the council once more and served until 1951.



"This is the time when you and I know that though we have proceeded a portion of the way, the longer, harder part still lies ahead; and that it is for us to redouble our efforts to care for those who must still depend on relief, to prevent the disintegration of home life . . . we must be bound together by ties of neighborliness . . . the guiding spirit of our work for the sick, for the children in need, and for the aged and friendless."

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

Depression Iconography

The Council-Manager form of government became effective July 1, 1931, and the Oakland Police Department is now directly under the jurisdiction of the chief executive officer of the city, viz.: Mr. Ossian E. Carr, our City Manager.

If there is any officer of this Department who is not thoroughly familiar with this form of government, it is expected that he will become so without delay in order that the Oakland Police Department may fully and efficiently do its part in making the [new system] the great success everyone desires it to be...

Municipal corruption caused Oakland to adopt the City Manager system. Coincidence determined that the first major task of the new system was to deal with the depression.

The Depression, The City Manager and The Police Department

As the depression deepened, it became the City Manager's role to keep the City solvent. City Manager Carr saw his principal tasks as cutting the tax rate and the budget, increasing the efficiency of the civil service, and doing away with patronage. He used his authority vigorously. After a preliminary inspection of Oakland's city government, he announced it was overstaffed. "We want enough men to do the necessary work," he

said. "We don't want any surplus help to stumble over. On that basis reductions are made."

From the beginning he made it clear that he would require strict financial accountability, cuts, and changes in all City departments, including the Police Department. In "City Pay Waste," a paper he presented to the Council, he cited as an example, "At least a dozen patrolmen at \$200 per month, each assigned to clerical work which could be done better by fewer clerks at \$90 to \$150 per month each."

These views put him on a collision course with some Councilmen and with the permanent civil service. But most residents of Oakland supported him, sharing his belief that a balanced budget was essential, and that the City had to reduce its spending. Tax delinquencies were running at a rate of 9 and 10% per month.

The Police Budget

As part of his program to reduce municipal expenditures, the City Manager made successive cuts in the Police Department's budget, and in each fiscal year made further reductions in actual operating funds. In three years he cut the Department's expenditures by \$149,694.

For example, the Departmental budget approved by the Council for FY 1931/32 was \$1,054,391.00. The budget for the next year, FY 1932/33, was \$1,028,255.89. This was a reduction of \$26,135.11.

However, after additional cuts in operating funds during 1932/33, the Department actually spent only \$986,542.88. This was \$41,712.12 less than the budget had authorized.

The \$26,135.11 cut from the previous budget and the additional \$41,712.12 cut in actual expenditures made a total reduction in Police Department expenditures for FY 32/33 of \$67,847.23, a substantial amount of money.

The 1932/33 budget included, incidently, \$800 for new police manuals, \$150 for "Identification Bureau improvements," \$103.75 for pistol target practice ammunition, and \$2,160 for one new officer.

Police Pay Cuts

A long and wounding fight over money began in December, 1932, when Carr asked the police officers to accept voluntary pay cuts.* He proposed a reduction of 10% and, as an economy measure, suggested canceling Section 91 of the City Charter, which established the pay scale for the Police Department and stated that, "No compensation or sal-

*To set an example, Carr twice recommended that his own salary be cut by \$2,500 -- from the original \$20,000 to \$15,000 per year. He threw away the effect of this by making intemperate threats. On one occasion he told the Council he could get "all the police officers the City needed from Texas for \$100 a month."

Police Department Expenditures: 1929 - 1941

By Fiscal Year

1929-30	1,035,559.44
1930-31	1,055,310.85
1931-32	1,015,935.26
1932-33	986,542.88
1933-34	905,616.54
1934-35	932,604.06
1935-36	949,632.49
1936-37	996,786.92
1937-38	1,029,844.14
1938-39	1,056,097.16
1939-40	1,095,341.25
1940-41	1,115,877.75

ary less than those herein specified shall be paid to any officer of the Police Department." Instead, he wanted the Council to set the salaries at the levels he recommended. The police objected, and insisted that the Charter remain in force.

In January, 1933, Carr appointed a committee consisting of citizens and police officers to confer on the issue. Late in the month, the officers conceded that wage reductions would be fair but held their ground on having the salaries set by the Charter.

In April, a "compromise" Charter amendment passed in a special election, and altered the Charter to read:

No compensation or salary less than those herein specified shall be paid to any officer of the Police Department; provided, whenever it shall be found by the City Council, by ordinance, adopted by not less than six affirmative votes, that an economic emergency confronts the Oakland city government due to extraordinary conditions beyond the control of said city government, said Council may by said ordinance provide for a reduction not to exceed ten percent of the annual salaries fixed by this section...

Subsequently, the salaries listed in the Charter remained unchanged (as the police desired), but under the "emergency" provision the Council enacted salary reductions (desired by the City Manager) of 10% for 1933/34, 7% for 1934/35, and 4% for 1935/36.

In the worst years of the 1930s the City government teetered on the edge of bankruptcy. (In June, 1934, the Mayor said there were 70,000 "delinquent home owning taxpayers.") City employees -- including police officers -- were sometimes paid in "script," certificates the City promised to redeem in the future. Many banks charged a fee of 10% to turn script into cash, but some officers found merchants on their beats who cashed the notes at face-value.

Reduced Mobility

On September 23, 1931, Chief Drew ordered a 50% reduction in the number of patrol cars -- cutting them from 32 to a total of 16. Subsequently, patrolmen on walking beats were assigned cars only as they became available from a municipal pool of used vehicles. Police automobiles were rationed throughout the depression, and very few new vehicles were purchased.

Reduction in Force

Next to automobiles, the Department's highest expense was for personnel. In 1930, the Department had an authorized strength of 465 officers. By 1937, the number of officers had dropped to 371, a loss of 94 in seven years, despite continued growth in the City's population. (Between 1930 and 1940 the population of Oakland rose by 18,100, from 284,063 in 1930 to 302,163 in 1940.)

Openings on the force were rare, but when positions became available, there was no shortage of applicants. In May, 1938, when a civil service examination for police officer was held, more than a thousand men competed for fourteen jobs.*

The Police Welfare Association

In 1933, police officers responded to the economic setbacks of the depression by founding the Welfare Association of the Oakland Police Department (the predecessor of today's Oakland Police Officers Association). It began with only 12 members, and then grew steadily. Its purpose was to help members and their families when they were in financial trouble and, on a continuing basis, to perform such charities as providing flowers, magazines and gifts to sick and injured members.

*On May, 5, 1939, the following new officers were appointed from the eligible list created by the examination: Bernard Kelly, Clinton Payne, James Mangini, Adolph Verdugo, James Gunter, Amel Mohring, Dexter Mast, Frank Hilken, William O'Malia, Thomas Prindiville, Earl Rumetsch, Robley Hines, and Elmer Norgren. This was the largest number of officers appointed at one time since 1929.

The Oakland City Charter,
As of November 4, 1930

Section 91, Salaries.

The Officers and members of the Police Department shall receive annual compensations comprising their salaries of not less than the amounts hereinafter set forth:

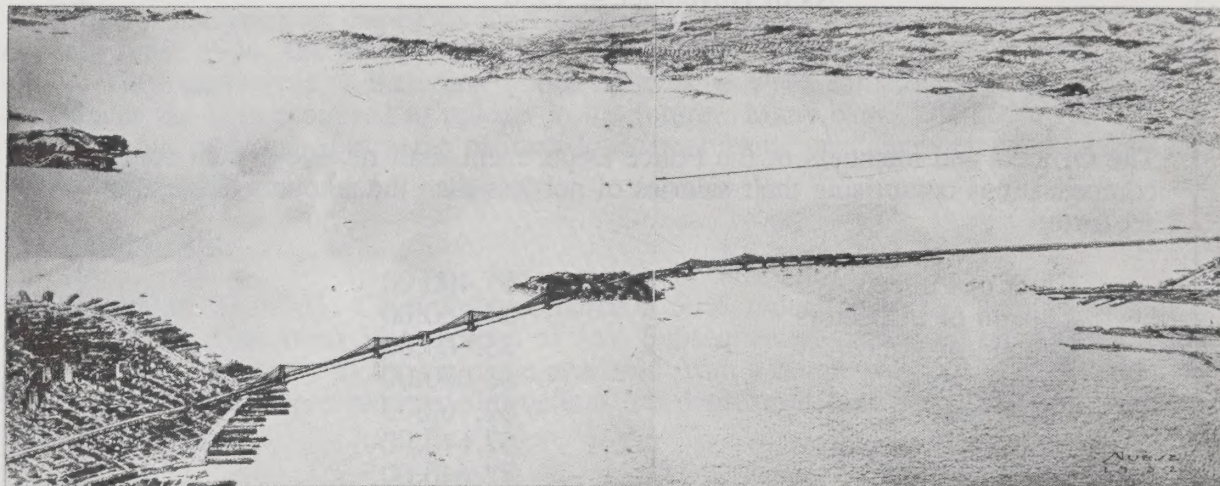
Chief of Police	\$5,400.00
Captain of Inspectors	\$4,200.00
Captain of Police	\$3,600.00
Lieutenants	\$3,000.00
Inspectors	\$2,760.00
Assistant Inspectors	\$2,640.00
Sergeants, each	\$2,640.00
Corporals, each	\$2,580.00
Patrolmen, first year of employment	\$2160.00
Patrolmen, second year of employment	\$2280.00
Patrolmen, third year of employment	\$2400.00

Living With the Depression: Relief Measures

The most visible remaining signs of the depression are the superb buildings and public facilities constructed by the "public works" programs. Many of them might not have been built in more prosperous times, but they endure as a monument to the quality of the people who built them, and permanently display the results of energy and skills for which the financial catastrophe left no other outlet.

The Hoover and Roosevelt administrations undertook vast public works programs. In the East Bay, the Federal Government provided millions of dollars to employ East Bay residents as laborers in the construction of (to name but a few) Oakland's Rose Gardens, the Woodminster Amphitheater, and the County Court House. The most important and ambitious of all these "make work" projects was, of course, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

On February 24, 1932, Federal, State, and local officials agreed that the long dreamed of San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge should actually be constructed. On July 9, that same year, thousands of people gathered at the Key Route mole to watch a festive ground breaking ceremony, the high moment of which was a dynamite blast triggered telegraphically from the White House by President Roosevelt. (This was not an unusual event. During the depression people sought opportunities to come together for public celebrations. The police frequently participated in their peace-keeping role, and often as marching units in parades.)



The San Francisco - Oakland Bay Bridge
(Artist's Conception, 1933)

Earl Lee Kelly, California's Director of Public Works, subsequently wrote to Chief Drew, in regard to police participation in this event:

I wish to bring to your attention the capable policing which your department provided the State Department of Public Works in connection with the ground breaking ceremonies on Yerba Buena Island.

Permit me to thank you and the men whom you detailed to this service for the efficient manner in which the Oakland ferry boat loading was handled as well as the protection of the public in the blast area.

One feature of the project that appealed to the political leaders was the number of jobs it would provide. To demonstrate the importance of the project, the California Toll Bridge Authority released the following "Employment Facts:"

The bridge will employ an average of 6,500 men on location during its construction and will cause the employment of 5,000 additional men in factories manufacturing materials for the bridge. At the outset of construction approximately 400 men will be employed in actually building the bridge. This number will rise to a peak point of approximately 12,300 men, and then decline gradually as the bridge approaches completion...

Officials estimated that "The steel required for the bridge will constitute approximately 6.7% of the estimated output of the United States in 1933." A report released in 1935 showed that the tonnage handled by the Port of Oakland rose 62% due to shipments of concrete, steel and cable for the Bay Bridge.



The San Francisco - Oakland Bay Bridge

Northern California workers built the great bridge in an astonishingly short time. It opened for traffic on November 12, 1936, and 46,120 vehicles drove across the first day. Each auto paid a 65¢ toll.

Even such massive projects as the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge did not fully blunt the enormous impact of the depression. Thousands of people continued to suffer from the hard times. Oakland had its own "Hooverville" of cardboard shacks and hobo jungles on the waterfront near the foot of Broadway. Large reductions in the unemployment figures did not occur until the approach of World War II.

Crime During the Depression: Three Cases

The Murder of Officer Kohler

On Saturday, July 4, 1931, Chief Drew issued the following statement to the press:

On July 2, 1931, about 3:00 p.m., while patrolling his district around Mountain Boulevard and Shone Avenue, Patrolman William Kohler noticed two young men shooting at a tin can as a target. As he approached them, they jumped into a small coupe or roadster, Ford or Chevrolet. Officer Kohler, driving his car in front of them, stopped their movement to question them. The driver got out of this car, going to the rear end, and as Officer Kohler came out of his car, the driver coming around the automobile, shot Officer Kohler three times in the back...The two men then disappeared in their car.

Patrolman William T. Kohler made the supreme sacrifice in his efforts to make our city a safer place to live in and died about 4:00 a.m. July 4, 1931, from the above mentioned wounds...

We extend to the family of our deceased veteran comrade our sincere and heartfelt sympathy, and deplore with them the passing of a courteous, zealous, energetic and conscientious police officer, a good father, a good citizen whose conduct at all times commanded the admiration and respect of all.*

Captain of Inspectors Bodie Wallman directed an intense investigation of the crime. He assigned Inspectors William Marshall, Eugene Murphy, James Goodnight, and John Mulhern to the case.

Several witnesses saw the shooting. Their accounts reminded one of the investigators of the attempted murder of Alameda Police Officer W. P. Hendrickson five days earlier. Inspectors Marshall and Murphy interviewed him, and he told them that, like Kohler, he had interrupted two suspects committing an illegal act -- stripping an automobile. One of them shot him, but the bullet was deflected by his badge and only stunned him. While he was groggy, they handcuffed him and took his wallet and his pistol. As he recovered his senses, Hendrickson heard one of them refer to their vehicle as a rented car.

*Officer Kohler was fifty years old. He was appointed to the Department on January 16, 1907, and served for twenty three and a half years. He was survived by his wife and a young son.



Officer William Kohler

His description of his assailants was consistent with the vague descriptions provided by witnesses of the Kohler shooting. In each incident, one of the suspects wore a red sweater.

Inspector H. H. Caldwell, the Department's identification expert and criminologist, compared firing pin impressions on empty cartridge cases found at the scene of the Kohler shooting with cartridge cases Officer Hendrickson had saved after shooting practice with his own pistol. He concluded that they matched, and that the gun stolen from Officer Hendrickson was used to shoot Officer Kohler.

Immediately after Officer Kohler died, the investigators issued Circular No. 553, "Wanted for Murder" (July 4, 1931). Sent coast to coast, the hastily written message said, in part:

The two men [fled] in their car, probably a sport model coupe painted a dull gray, probably canvas top. The driver wore a red sweater but no hat. No. 2 man wore a hat or cap.

Officer Kohler was unable to give any description of the men who shot him or of the car and its license number.

It is now believed that these two young men are the same men who shot Officer Hendrickson in Alameda, June 28, 1931...

No. 1 -- Age about 18 to 20 years; height about 5 ft. 7 inches; weight 145; dark complexion; thin lips; hair slicked back. No hat, white shirt, Red slipover sweater.

No. 2 -- A little shorter than No. 1 man; brown bushy hair. Age about 18 to 20 years; fair complexion...

Wire information to this Department at our expense.

The Inspectors checked every automobile rental agency in the East Bay until they found one that, on the day of the Hendrickson shooting, had rented a car to two young men who fit the description. Their names were Lewis Downs and Joseph Gasparich.

Downs and Gasparich turned out to be 17-year-old students at McClymonds High School who had never been in trouble before. When their homes were searched, the investigators found a red sweater similar to the one described by the witnesses. In Gasparich's room, the investigators found a small arsenal of handguns, including the .38 caliber automatic used to shoot Officer Hendrickson.

The case took on even more urgency when, in Downs' room, the investigators found black masks like those described by the victims of holdups in Berkeley and Oakland after Officer Kohler died. It now appeared Downs and Gasparich had committed these robberies to raise getaway money, and that they might have fled from California already. Circular 554 was issued on Tuesday, July 8, identifying the suspects and a car they were thought to have stolen. The circular included photographs.

On Wednesday, July 9, in Beaver, Utah, an alert police officer arrested Downs and Gasparich as they were in the act of stealing a car. The next morning, Thursday, July 10, Beaver County District Attorney Abe Mordock announced that Downs had confessed to shooting Officer Kohler and to eight robberies in Berkeley, one in Oakland, and one in Monterey.

After Captain Wallman conferred with District Attorney Earl Warren on the preparation of extradition papers, he sent Inspector Marshall and Officer Hendrickson to bring the suspects back to Oakland.

In his report to Chief Drew (July 18), Captain Wallman wrote:

After the shooting of Officer Kohler there were, as you know, very few if any clues to the identity of the defendants and in addition to the very poor descriptions given which were almost worthless, there was a very poor identity of the automobile used in this act; yet...Inspectors Marshall and Murphy [learned] the identity of the defendants seventy-four hours before their apprehension.

Inspectors Goodnight and Mulhern displayed their willingness to work, and through their diligence the necessary evidence and witnesses were secured and the case prepared and presented before the Grand Jury of this county in such wonderful shape and speed that an indictment was returned without delay.

...Furthermore, Inspector H. H. Caldwell was given certain pieces of evidence such as empty and loaded shells and bullets taken from the body of Officer Kohler, guns taken from the defendants, the automobile used and fingerprints found on same, and in every instance...when compared with our final findings and statements [his] comparisons checked perfectly...

Gasparich and Downs initially claimed to have shot Officer Kohler in self-defense, and entered not-guilty pleas. They abandoned this after Judge Lincoln S. Church ruled them unfit subjects for "consideration under the Juvenile Court Law of the State of California." On September 14, they pled guilty, and on September 18, 1931, in Alameda Superior Court, Judge John J. Allen found them guilty of murder in the first degree and sentenced them both to "confinement in the State Prison of the State of California, at San Quentin...for life."

They arrived at San Quentin on September 24, 1931, where they were photographed, fingerprinted, and incarcerated.

The Brooke Hart Kidnapping (1933)

Brooke Hart, the 22-year-old son of a prominent San Jose merchant, was kidnapped on November 9, 1933. The kidnappers forced the young man to drive them onto the San Mateo Bridge. They knocked him out with a blow to the head, tied him up with wire, and threw him into the water. Ignoring his calls for help they left him to drown. Then they began telephoning his family to demand a \$40,000 ransom.

On November 16, Santa Clara County Sheriff William Emig and Federal agents, with help from the victim's father, traced one call so quickly they caught Thomas Thurmond giving instructions on where to deliver the ransom. Thurmond named John Holmes, another local man, as his accomplice. Holmes was quickly arrested.

After the suspects confessed to leaving Brooke Hart struggling in the water, a major search for the body began. Divers, "dragnet boats," and shore patrol officers from four counties participated. Subsequently, District Attorney Warren praised the Oakland Police Department for its role in the search:

We particularly wish to commend Captain Alex Trotter, Sergeant Skelton and Officer Moore, who were instrumental in furnishing the grappling irons, launch and other equipment used in connection with this investigation. These officers worked ceaselessly, without thought of time or the effort involved...These men and this equipment materially assisted all of the cooperating forces in the recovery of certain of the articles used in this atrocious crime.

Shortly after dawn on Sunday, November 26, two duck hunters found Brooke Hart's body floating about a mile south of the bridge, near where police officers had searched. The appearance of the body, and other evidence, confirmed that Hart struggled before drowning. For example, his overcoat was found north of the bridge, in the water opposite the Oakland Municipal Airport. The Santa Clara District Attorney announced that the discovery of the body verified the confessions.



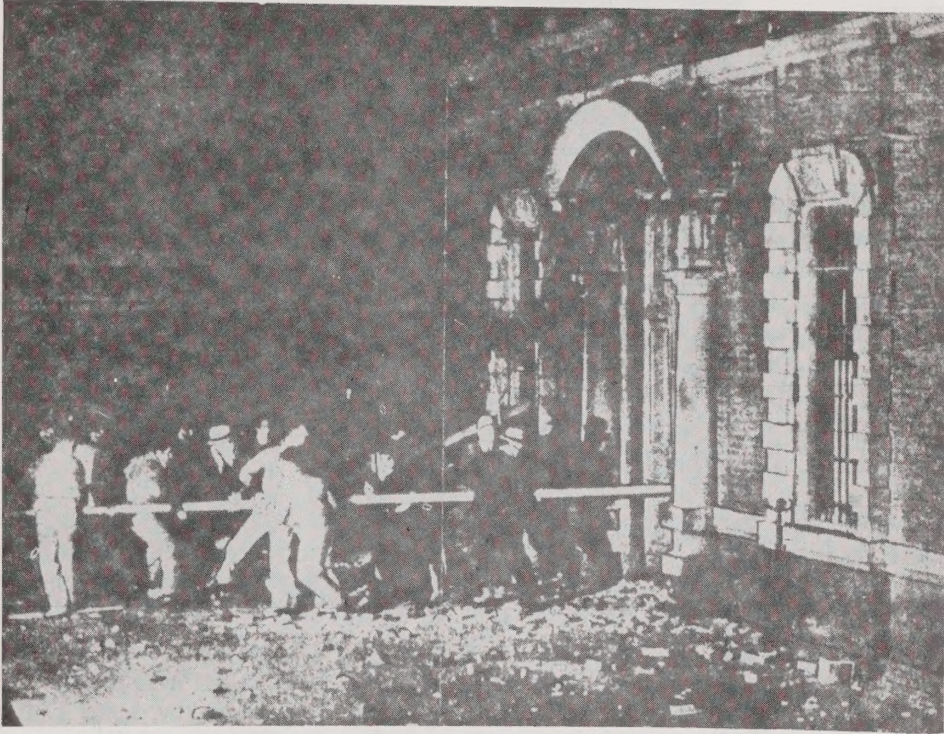
Motorcycle Officer Napier Adams

Word of the discovery spread through Santa Clara County, and a crowd of people began to gather near the jail in downtown San Jose. During the afternoon the sheriff put up a barrier of ropes and automobiles to hold the crowd at least 100 yards from the jail. When pressure from the crowd pushed the barrier aside, he withdrew his officers -- nine deputies and eight CHP officers -- into the jail and prepared to face a siege.

By evening, the crowd had grown to 15,000. It formed a dense mass, filling the street in front of the jail, and flowing into nearby St. James Park. Automobiles were parked solidly from curb to curb, completely blocking every street leading into the area. The jail was isolated. Sheriff Emig began telephoning for assistance. By the time officers from San Jose and Palo Alto reached the scene, they could only stand "on the outskirts of the crowd, not daring to use their weapons," lest the crowd turn on them murderously.

The assault on the jail began about 9:30 when a cry went up to "Get six feet of rope." For an hour and a half the officers used "gas bombs" and high-powered water hoses to hold the mob at bay. Despite a rain of bricks and other missiles gathered by the mob from a nearby construction site, the jail's defenders repelled three charges.

At 10:20 the Oakland Police Department received its first request from San Jose for assistance. Inspector William Kyle was placed in command of a hastily assembled relief force, which consisted of him and his driver, Police Chauffeur Robinson, Sergeants Herman Bernstein and Walter Pardee, Patrolmen William Garrity, Ralph Armstrong, Walter Armstrong, John Healy, Claude Burke and Edward Robinson and Motorcycle Policemen William Wasashaley, James Tumalty, Edmund Thompson, Joseph Jackson and Napier Adams.



The Mob Batters in the Door

According to press reports, "The officers sped out of Oakland, sirens screaming, and trailed by scores of East Bay residents, at 10:45 o'clock." Later, W. E. Robinson, the Inspector's Bureau chauffeur, said he "drove the forty-odd miles to San Jose in twenty-five minutes."

While the Oakland officers were enroute, the mob used a long eight-inch pipe to batter in the front door. The defending officers were overpowered and beaten. Sheriff Emigh himself was badly injured. One of his deputies said, "I never knew human beings could go so wild -- they were not human; they were animals." The crowd used a jailer's keys to open the cells, seized the prisoners and carried them bodily out into St. James Park.

Inspector Kyle said later,

We reached there about five or ten minutes after the mob had hanged Thurmond and Holmes in the park. We first reported to Sheriff Emig and then deployed ourselves around the park to hold back the mob from the bodies.

As a whole, the crowd was orderly. But a group of youths in the front ranks were apparently under the influence of liquor. They were smoking cigarettes, and every once in a while they kept flipping cigarettes at Thurmond's body as it swayed from the tree.

Finally, a few of these lighted cigarettes caught fire in Thurmond's coat, and the coat started to smolder. The coat was burning when the coroner's deputies arrived to cut down the body...

They [the crowd] were as silent as death. But they gave me the impression of a group whose work was accomplished.

The subdued temper of the crowd was also noticed by the San Francisco Police Department relief party. Its commander, Lt. Alex McDonald, said, "We drove into town at high speed, as people streamed homeward from the city. They averted their faces as we passed them, pulling their coat collars up to cover their faces."

"Baby Face" Nelson

The notorious gangsters of the 1930s tended to be Eastern or Mid-Western figures, and their criminal activities did not bring them to California. One exception to this general rule was George "Baby Face" Nelson, a bank robber who was a genuine "homicidal maniac." All responsible accounts of him agree that he completely lacked the normal inhibitions against killing. Nelson worked in the 1920s for Al Capone's syndicate as a low level enforcer in the labor rackets. He was fired for murdering too many of the people he was supposed to injure. Subsequently he joined the John Dillinger gang, becoming known as its most vicious member. After the FBI shot Dillinger on July 2, 1934, Nelson became "Public Enemy Number One," and promptly went into hiding.

Late in July, an informer told Oakland Inspector Eugene Murphy that Nelson was hiding somewhere in the Bay Area. Murphy and Inspector William Marshall began to search for him. They soon joined forces with Inspectors William McMahan and Patrick Wafer of the San Francisco Police Department.

Nelson came and went as he chose for a while longer, frequenting prize fights, movies, and good restaurants, and reportedly even drinking in a bar across the street from the Hall of Justice in San Francisco. Each time reliable tips said Nelson was in San Francisco or Oakland, the information came a little too late, and he managed to get away.

The four detectives concluded that Nelson's hideout was near El Verano, in Sonoma County. Informants said that Nelson was living like a country squire, and that his wife and child were with him.

Inspector Murphy went to El Verano, only to find that Nelson and his family were gone. Some days later, when the four investigators learned that Nelson would soon be back, they notified the Department of Justice. The police detectives and federal agents armed themselves with shotguns and machine guns, and prepared to ambush him.

He did not show up.



Mayor William J. McCracken

They set several more traps for Nelson in August, but each time he failed to appear where he was expected. Certain that Nelson knew they were looking for him, the investigators persisted in their cat and mouse game, until Nelson finally fled back to the Middle West. But there was no safety for him there, and he was kept on the run until fatally wounded by Federal agents in Illinois on November 24, 1934.

Changing of the Guard

In the depths of the depression, while the future looked bleakest, three important leaders came to the fore in Oakland: Mayor William J. McCracken, City Manager John Hassler, and Police Chief Bodie Wallman. They guided the City through the worst of the depression and the early days of World War II.

William J. McCracken*

The councilmen elected in 1933 chose Dr. William J. McCracken to succeed Mayor Morcum. Dr. McCracken had a long record of public service and "a reputation for unimpeachable integrity and impartiality." While a member of the Public Library's

*Born in Oakland, 1878, educated in local public schools. Graduated from the University of California. After his term as Mayor, he served an additional eight years on the Council. Died December 3, 1949.

Board of Directors, he supported the creation of the neighborhood branch library system. He also promoted the "Pride Club," which planted 20,000 trees in the City, and supported the creation of the Woodminster Amphitheater. He served as Mayor for nine years, from July 1, 1933 to June 30, 1941.

The Downfall of Manager Carr

Ossian Carr had provoked such antagonism that he became the principal issue in the municipal election of 1933. A strong coalition of groups -- including police officers and firemen -- wanted him replaced. The campaign was emotional; one of its slogans was, "Oakland jobs for Oakland residents." It did Carr little good to point out that, after all, he too lived in Oakland. When he supported unsuccessful Charter amendments to cut police and fire salaries, he suffered a serious loss of prestige.

After the election, Carr aroused even greater fury among his opponents when, in his monthly report to the council (April, 1933), he claimed that political activity by police officers caused an increase in traffic fatalities. Noting that there were seven more traffic deaths in March than in February, he wrote:

In the long month of March only 30% as many arrests were made as in the short month of February.

If the traffic men had devoted all of their time to police duty instead of perhaps 30% to police duty and 70% to politics, some of the graves in the cemetery would not have been required.

Attacked for this, he insisted he had taken the "facts" from the police records, which showed 1,000 arrests in February and only 377 during March, "when the campaign was active."

Carr defended himself successfully for a time, but was finally dismissed by a five to four vote on November 24, 1933. He achieved two successes during his tenure: he made the City Manager's office a genuine source of authority, and he cut the City budget by one and a half million dollars. This surely contributed to his undoing. "I know of no other job," he said, "where one must say no so often."*

John Hassler

To replace City Manager Carr, the council selected John F. Hassler by a vote of six to one, and set his salary at \$10,000. An Oakland banker and a member of the State Athletic Commission, his personality was far less abrasive than Carr's. He earned a high degree of trust from the community and from the civil service -- including the Police Department -- even though he carried out the wage cuts Carr had tried to impose.

*Ossian Carr (1877-1970), having served two years and four months, moved on to other projects. He was appointed Director of the Federal Public Works Administration for California, Nevada, and Arizona, and later went into private business. When he retired, Carr made his permanent home in Oakland. He passed away here at 93 years of age.



Ossian Carr Congratulates John Hassler,
His Successor as City Manager

Hassler served from November 23, 1933 to January 3, 1943, a total of nine years, and two months. He left Oakland to join Governor Earl Warren's administration in Sacramento as director of finance.*

Chief Bodie A. Wallman

As 1933 came to an end, Chief Drew decided to retire. He submitted his resignation, to take effect on January 1, 1934, and took extended leave. On hearing the news, Captain of Inspectors Bodie A. Wallman said, "I have worked with Chief Drew for twenty-two years. I consider him a dear friend and am sorry to see him ask for a pension."

Captain Wallman was appointed Acting Chief on December 14, 1933, and he became

*When Charles M. Schwanenberg, his successor, died of a heart attack on October 5, 1946, Hassler (1886-1954) accepted reappointment as City Manager, and served for eight more years. He died at 67 on August 9, 1954.



Chief Bodie A. Wallman

Chief on the first day of the new year.*

Before he made his mark on the Department he had, like Chief Wilson in 1906, to lead it through an event which might have been a major catastrophe for Oakland -- the General Strike of 1934.

It came four months after he took charge.

The 1934 General Strike

Labor troubles had been constant on the San Francisco waterfront for more than ten years. The accumulated hostility boiled over on May 9, 1934, when the International Longshoreman's Association went on strike for:

**Wallman studied at the University of California and the University of Santa Clara. He worked in Arizona's copper mines and gold mines before going into business in Oakland. Appointed Patrolman, August 15, 1911; Assistant Inspector, March 19, 1914; Inspector, September 26, 1918; Captain, February 14, 1920; Captain of Inspectors, November 5, 1926. Retired, March 31, 1943. Professional standing: Vice-President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police; President of the State Peace Officers' Association, Bay Counties Peace Officers, International Association of Police Officials, International Footprint Association. He passed away on January 2, 1952.

- a pay increase from \$.85 to \$1.00 an hour,
- a 30-hour work week, and
- a closed shop.

The longshoremen and their allies in the seafaring unions left 96 ships tied up and \$40 million worth of cargo on the docks. The employers refused to negotiate, denouncing the union's demands and charging it was controlled by Communists. Thus, the stage was set for a bitter confrontation between labor and management, and one of the bloodiest explosions of social unrest to occur during the depression.

After the strike lasted a month, the shippers tried to reopen the port. On July 5, fighting broke out between strikers, strikebreakers, and San Francisco police officers stationed on the docks. Dozens of people were injured, including many officers. After one shot was fired -- whether by a striker or an officer is unknown -- both sides started shooting. Before the day was over, two strikers had been killed and 31 wounded. This dreadful day became known to the unions as "Bloody Thursday."

To restore the peace, Governor Merriam sent in 1,700 national guardsmen. Within days, the residents of San Francisco saw an appalling sight -- their waterfront patrolled by soldiers armed with rifles and machineguns. The union called for a general strike, something almost unprecedented in the United States, and regarded by most people as an intolerable affront to the community.*

The general strike took effect on July 16, and in San Francisco, Contra Costa, and Alameda counties, an estimated 147,000 union workers walked off their jobs.

The effect in the East Bay was immediate. Port of Oakland docks and terminals closed, and Key System trollies stopped operating. Union strongarm squads (known as "close-up men") went from place to place warning merchants to shut down and workers to stay off the job.

To allay criticism that the general strike would disrupt the delivery of food, gasoline, medicine and other necessities, the Strike Committee arranged for trucks to make deliveries to selected locations where people would be permitted to purchase what they needed. The union-authorized trucks carried placards stenciled, "By Permission of the Strike Committee."

Mayor McCracken issued a proclamation and called for volunteers to counteract the effects of the general strike.

*A general strike is called for economic or political reasons, or both. One rather dry definition describes it as "a sympathetic cessation of work by all or a majority of workers in all industries and public utilities of a locality or a nation." The syndicalist and anarchist movements advocated the general strike as a technique for seizing control of the state. In practice, general strikes have been fearsome events, virtually civil wars, as in Russia in 1905, Germany in 1919, and England in 1926.

dramatic conflict between labor and management in Northern California during the depression, came to an end. It left bitterness on both sides which lasted for many years.

Most officers were sympathetic, at least in principle, to the strikers. "Many of them came," as John Connolly (OPD, Retired) noted, "from the ranks of organized labor; teamsters, plasterers, and electricians..." Strikes during the 1930s and 1940s always placed police officers in a difficult position. They did their duty, but they did not like to be called "strike breakers."

New Developments Under Chief Wallman

After the strike, Chief Wallman made important changes in the Department, and by 1937, the Department's organization chart began to look very much as it does today. Of the many innovations he sponsored and encouraged, the following are particularly worthy of attention: the use of radio, changes in traffic enforcement, the application of statistical methods to problem areas, and the expansion of the police school.

Development of Radio

The Department's adoption of radio offers a "case study" in how depression-era financial constraints (and wartime shortages) delayed technical progress.

The application of radio to police work was one of the major innovations in twentieth century policing. On the West Coast, some of the earliest experiments with it were carried out by V. A. Leonard in Berkeley. In 1924 he achieved what he believed was "the first contact between police headquarters and a moving patrol car." Subsequently, the Berkeley Police Department became one of the first to put radio-equipped cars on the street.

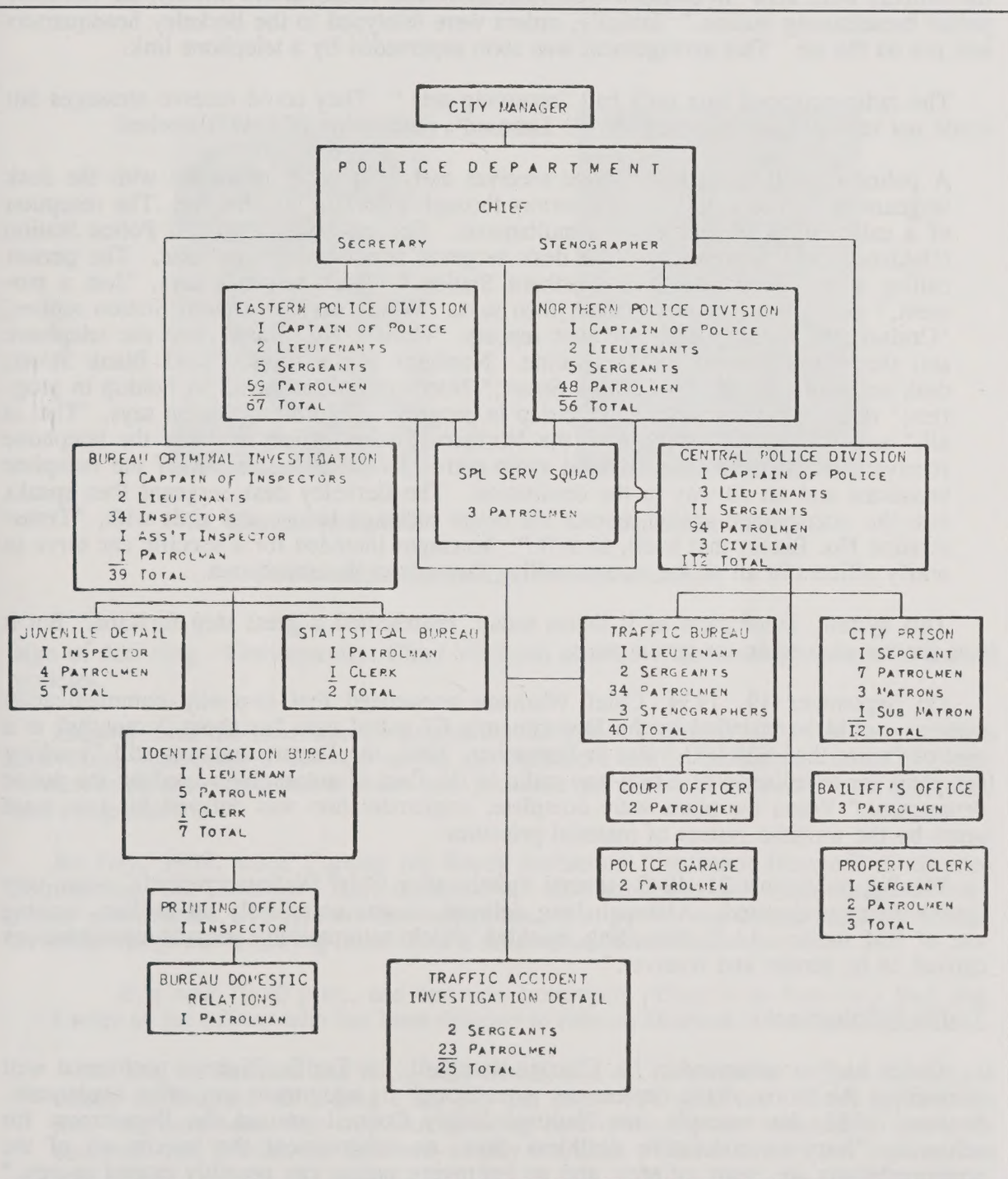
In Oakland, Chief Drew, Captain Wallman, and others monitored the progress of Berkeley's experiments. When the early limitations (the excessive size of the receivers and the spotty quality of transmissions) had been overcome and reliable commercially produced receivers became available, they began to plan a radio system for the Department.

On January, 11, 1932, the City Manager announced the appropriation of \$1,200 for a "special broadcasting system." The new system was to begin operating "on or after February 1," with a transmitter at City Hall, and two microphones (one in the Chief's office, the other in the Captain of Detective's office) which would send messages to the receivers in patrol cars.

But it did not happen. Instead, lack of money caused the first of many delays.

To save the cost of a transmitter, the City signed a contract with Berkeley, and Oakland became part of the network serviced by the powerful Berkeley Police Department transmitter (it covered 1440 square miles).* On March 24, 1932, eight radio-equipped

*Other cities served by the network were Albany, El Cerrito, Kensington Park, and Richmond.



Organization Chart: As of December 1937

vehicles were put into service: six "scout cars" for beat patrol, the "speed car" of the Inspectors Bureau, and "one reserve machine." In the new "cruising squad car system," the officers were kept "in constant communication with headquarters through the Berkeley police broadcasting station." Initially, orders were teletyped to the Berkeley headquarters and put on the air. This arrangement was soon superseded by a telephone link.

The radio-equipped cars only had "receiving sets." They could receive messages but could not send answers. Here is V. A. Leonard's description of how it worked:

A police official...lifts a telephone receiver and is at once in contact with the desk sergeant at Berkeley police headquarters through a private leased wire...The reception of a call and its broadcast are simultaneous. For example, Northern Police Station (Oakland) calls Berkeley and the desk sergeant answers the telephone. The person calling says, "Broadcast from Northern Station." Desk sergeant says, "Just a moment," and opens the microphone; then says, "Which car?" Northern Station replies, "Cruiser No. Blank"; desk sergeant repeats, "Cruiser No. Blank" into the telephone and the microphone at the same time. Northern Station says, "2241 Blank Street; desk sergeant repeats "2241 Blank Street;" Northern Station says, "A holdup in progress;" desk sergeant repeats, "A holdup in progress." Northern Station says, "That is all," and hangs up. At the time the Northern Station officer replaces the telephone receiver on the hook, the Oakland radio-patrol car is in possession of the complete broadcast and on its way to the destination. The Berkeley desk sergeant then speaks into the microphone again, repeats the entire message twice, and ends with, "Transmission No. Blank; that is all, K-S-W." Messages intended for a specific car serve to notify officers in all police cars patrolling throughout the entire area...

This system, incomplete as it seems today, represented a great step forward. But it was the last step taken for seven years.

On September 19, 1939, Chief Wallman announced that two-way communication systems would be installed in the Department's 67 patrol cars "in about 3 months" at a cost of "more than \$20,000." But in December, 1941, the Department was still "working out plans for installation of a two-way radio in the fleet of automobiles used by the police department." When the plans were complete, implementation was delayed for two more years by the wartime system of material priorities.

Finally, on August 21, 1943 (several months after Chief Wallman retired), a two-way system was inaugurated. Although long delayed, it was completely up to date, making use of FM radios and "a recording machine which automatically records conversations carried on by sender and receiver."

Traffic Enforcement

Under its first commander, Lt. Charles Hemphill, the Traffic Division performed well throughout the worst of the depression, even though its equipment was often inadequate. In June, 1935, for example, the National Safety Council praised the Department for achieving "forty-six successive deathless days...an achievement that merits all of the commendations we, your citizens, and an approving nation can possibly extend to you." In 1936, however, the number of traffic fatalities jumped to a decade high (103). As economic recovery began and traffic increased substantially, the accident rate showed no



Lt. Charles Hemphill



Captain Ira Reedy

Two Notable Traffic Division Commanders

sign of declining. Consequently, Chief Wallman ordered a reassessment of traffic control policies.

Experts from the International Association of Police Chiefs (IACP) and Northwestern University conducted a detailed survey of Oakland's traffic problems. Chief Wallman implemented their recommendations and provided the division with additional personnel and equipment.

By July, 1939, when Captain Ira Reedy succeeded Lieutenant Hemphill as division commander, the Division's staff consisted of nine command and supervisory officers, ninety one officers, and five civilian employees. The public was pleased with the results, as is shown by the following letter from a resident of North Oakland:

It is now 10:40 p.m., and our new motorcycle officer is as busy as a bird dog. I refer to the officer who has been detailed to ride on Shattuck Avenue at night.

We live on Shattuck and Sixty-third Street, and we have needed a good motorcycle officer on Shattuck for a long time, and this fellow is a good one. He is right on the job. We have heard him stop four speeding cars in the last few minutes; so he means business, and I think he deserves worthy mention. That is why I am writing this note.

...There are also a couple of officers, in a small Ford coupe, who have been catching some of our reckless drivers in the last few days, and they also deserve worthy men-

tion; because Shattuck Avenue was getting to the point where some drivers regarded it as an open speedway...

Record Keeping

During the 1930s the Department became a national leader in the modernization of police records management. It worked closely with the International Business Machines Company (IBM) in creating police-oriented forms for use in key punch machines. The forms were used to expedite information processing throughout the Department, but especially in the Traffic Bureau, the Identification Bureau, and the Statistical Bureau.

A key element in the reorganization of the Traffic Division was the development of new report forms. These were so well received that in 1940, according to Sandy Sanderson, IBM published a booklet devoted to:

...the splendid and accurate records of the Traffic Division, Oakland Police Department, embracing vehicle accident reports, traffic citation and arrest reports, punching of tabulation cards from accidents, traffic citation and arrest reports.

Photostatic reproductions of the various forms used in the broad program of the traffic division were published with complete explanatory notes...

As a consequence of the IBM pamphlet, many forms and reports devised in Oakland became standard throughout the United States.

In the Identification Bureau, some 350,000 sets of fingerprints, 500,000 photographs, thousands of miscellaneous records and crime scene photographs had been fully cross-indexed. In addition to keeping records, of course, the Identification Bureau also functioned as a criminalistics section, performing preliminary blood tests, ballistic comparisons of firearms, and restoration of obliterated serial numbers on firearms and other objects. When these procedures developed information, it was cross-indexed and key-punched. The "I-Bureau" records were closely connected to the Inspectors' Bureau files for on-going investigations.

The Statistical Bureau, run by Philena P. Bickell,* a non-sworn employee, won national commendations for its "minute, accurate, and unassailable card index system." It coded and punched on tabulator cards all offense and arrest reports (excluding traffic reports), and issued monthly and annual analyses of crimes and arrests. The classification system followed guidelines recommended by the IACP, and generated data used to develop modus operandi files.

Philena Bickell was particularly interested in the development of modus operandi information. She believed that statistical information abstracted from crime reports could be of immense value when applied to practical criminal investigations. She said,

*Philena P. Bickell: temporary appointment October 17, 1931; provisional appointment, August 1, 1933; regular appointment, March 9, 1937; temporary appointment as Senior Statistical Clerk, September 16, 1944; regular appointment as Senior Statistical Clerk, December 15, 1944. Retired December 1, 1946.



Philena Bickell,
Oakland Police Department Statistician

There are many distinguishing facts or characteristics left at the scene of any crime that may aid in establishing the identity of the perpetrator.

If there were a standardized system of modus operandi established as a central clearing house in the States as well as in the Federal Bureau of Identification, the identification of known criminals would be greatly simplified.

A number of police departments sent officers to Oakland to study her methods in the application of IBM's machines to police tasks.

The Police School

In 1935 Chief Wallman made extensive changes in Departmental training, establishing what was essentially a new police school. A more thorough-going project than previously attempted by the Department, it relied on the public school system for classrooms, visual aids, preparation of examinations and correction of papers. Instructors were drawn from

the Department, the District Attorney's Office, and other outside agencies (including the probation and welfare departments). The Chief said:

Many of us have selected police work as our career and yet we have not properly prepared ourselves for the service.

Police work has progressed during the last 10 or 15 years and new duties are continually being imposed, changing with the character of American life. We must deal with every class of society and come in contact with human nature in all its aspects, keeping abreast of the times by attending technical courses and learning new processes...

It is a crime to send an officer out on the street clothed with a uniform and armed with a weapon, with little preparation.

By 1939, when Dexter Mast joined the Department, new recruits received an intensive, two-week orientation to police work, including introductory classes in the use of the service revolver, the baton, and tear gas; note taking, the preparation of reports, and the presentation of testimony and evidence in court. Recruits were sent out within the first few days to patrol beats with veteran officers. At night they attended classes in law taught by members of the District Attorney's staff. "Captain Lynch gave us a talk," recalled Dexter Mast. "I remember only one sentence. 'That seven-pointed star you are wearing is not a bullet-proof shield.'"

Further training was available after the recruit graduated from the two-week program. Dexter Mast wrote that he "continued to go to night school. All the years I was in the Department, there were classes. I took all that I could fit into my spare time."

Oakland officers taught in police schools around the East Bay and even further afield. In 1938, for example, Inspectors Hawkinson and MacDonald and Sergeant Jorgenson presented a series of classes in Lodi. Chief Jackson, of the Lodi Police Department, wrote that "Our average attendance for the 29 sessions has been 47. Inasmuch as the attendance is voluntary, and that these officers come many miles clear across the [San Joaquin] county, that attendance is certainly gratifying."

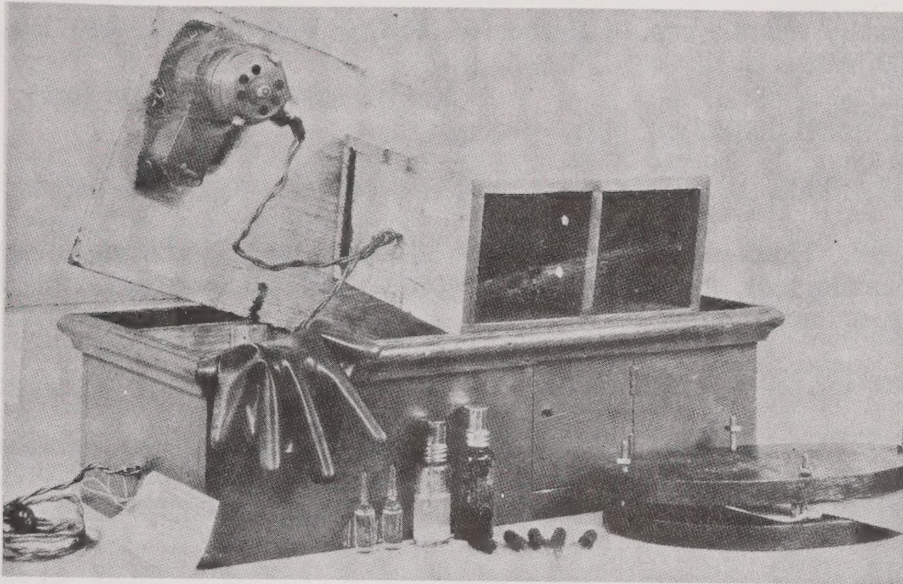
An indication of the level of expertise some instructors brought to their subjects can be inferred from the quality of Inspector John MacDonald's book, Crime is a Business. August Vollmer described this encyclopedic study of confidence games as "the most complete exposition of the methods used by criminals for defrauding the public that has ever been presented."

From The Police Bulletin: 1930-41

Wanted

April 1, 1930:

A-1264. Wanted for grand theft, GENE TRUEMAN; Age 23; height 5 ft. 9 in.; weight 125; hair light brown; small mustache; eyes grey; complexion fair; light gray suit; dark fedora hat. May be operating a Chrysler coupe, license 4-G-5402 or a Marmon roadster, license 5-E-7734.



"The Master Money Printer,"
From Crime is a Business

May 22, 1934:

A-2504. Wanted for grand theft, PRINCESS NADINE: English gypsy; age 30; height 5 ft. 2¼ in.; weight 110; slender build; black hair; dark eyes; pleasant voice. Dresses American style. Fortune teller and reader. May have with her or travel along with two men, her two small children and her mother, in a grey Plymouth sedan, license 6-H-9530. Procured \$1300 from complainant.

June 14, 1938:

A-3056. Wanted for grand theft and violating the corporate securities act, OSCAR KELLSTRUM, alias Geo. O. Allen, O. F. Kellington, Oscar Mellin, and/or Mellon: Age 48; height 5 ft. 9 in; weight 150 to 153; brown hair; smooth shaven but may have small mustache. Nativity, Sweden. Broker -- promoter. Fingerprints: 21 M/L 17/3 -- MO/--MO 19/17. This defendant defrauded complainant through a mining deal in which several misrepresentations were made. Alleged himself to be in possession of a mining property that was about to be sold to several banking interests for the sum of \$1,000,000. No determined value was ever established for this mine. He is also associated in Oil Lease propositions. Has operated out of Coalinga, Fresno County, California. Was associated with Ammon Dilbert, now in custody. He has also certain Eastern connections. Hold all papers, literature and monies in his possession. Arrest, hold and wire, collect, to this Department.

December 8, 1941:

A-3742. Wanted for violation of Sec. 270 P.C., EDWARD CARL HENNING: American; age 37; height 5 ft. 7 in.; weight 150; fair complexion.

Usually wears a cap. Oakland No. 26606. Finger prints: 26/ L/L 9/4 R/_
100/MOI 12/12.

Lost and Stolen Property

March 11, 1930:

J-799. Thirty-six baby gold rings; 24 gents' white gold signet rings; 24 Wahl fountain pens, green red and blue colors; 12 Wahl pencils; three silver plated cigarette cases and lighters.

December 19, 1933:

M-5223. Cigarettes, 67 cartons, Camels, Lucky Strikes, Chesterfields and Wings; two cartons containing 12 pkgs each of Edgeworth, Tuxedo, Granger, Velvet, George Washington and Prince Albert; a Tork clock.

August 13, 1935:

O-3213. Dark gray suit, size 38, gent's, cleaner's No. 99\$ over RYIA; small grey and black check suit, cleaner's No. 99\$ over L.L.

January 10, 1939:

I-51. Swiss chrom. wrist watch, initials C.Y.M.A.; gold pink cameo ring, two chip diamonds, initials C. to L.; Borsolina green felt hat, beaded edge, size 7 1/8, initials C.A.; gent's three-piece double-breasted blue suit with red stripe, Keltic Twist Worsted, maker Al Schneider, Oakland.

Monthly Reports

March, 1930:

Fines and forfeitures Police Court,	
Dept. No. 1	\$7,491.00
Dept. No. 2	\$7,640.00
Number of subpoenas issued	216
Number of persons subpoenaed	580
Number of warrants issued	93

February, 1935:

Fines and forfeitures Police Court,	
Dept. No. 1	\$5,200.00
Dept. No. 2	\$5,222.00
Number of subpoenas issued	150
Number of persons subpoenaed	446
Number of warrants issued	65
Number of arrests during month	4,644
Lost and stolen property recovered	\$26,622.88

January, 1940:

Fines & forfeitures Police Court,	
Dept. No. 1	\$23,200.00
Dept. No. 2	\$14,542.00
Stolen and Lost Property Recovered	\$18,875.11
Number of subpoenas issued	531
Number of persons subpoenaed	1,266
Number of warrants issued	67
Number of arrests	5,670

Stolen Autos

September 9, 1930:

T-1290. Maxwell touring; model 1922; license 4H-70-81; engine 378057.

March 13, 1934:

X-315. Essex sedan; model 1927; engine 61728; license 9-F-224.

July 2, 1940:

F-326. GMC 1½-ton truck; model 1937b; engine 139237; license PCBE-4199.

December 8, 1941:

G-690. Chev. Sport Roadster; model 1932; engine 2993821; license 48-K-443.

Recovered Autos:

January 17, 1933:

V-1860. Oakland roadster; license 7G-42-79; engine L1 8088.

July 9, 1935:

A-793. Lexington touring; engine FCB 16750; license 4-C-1561.

September 19, 1939:

E-139. Whippet Coupe; engine 122769; license 2-C-574.

Communications:

Oakland Unemployment Problems Committee
Room 301 City Hall
December 30, 1930

Dear Chief Drew: -- At a meeting of the Oakland Unemployment Problems Committee the following resolution was offered: "Resolved that a letter of appreciation be

sent to the members of the police and fire departments congratulating them on the splendid spirit they have shown, and the careful efficient way in which their relief work has been organized."

The above expression stated collectively is reiterated individually by every member of the Oakland Unemployment Problems Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Gladys F. Eccles,
Executive Secretary

* * * * *

Police Department
June 1, 1931

Mr. Frank Colbourn
Commissioner of Public Health and Safety
City of Oakland

Dear Sir: -- Kindly be advised that the East Bay Peace Officers revolver team competition was held in the City of Alameda, Thursday, May 28, 1931, and the following teams participated: Oakland Police Team, Berkeley Police Team; Alameda Police Team; Richmond Police Team; Sheriff's Office Team; and Highway Patrol team.

The possible score was 1000 and the following is a total score made by each team:

Oakland Police Team	913
Berkeley Police Team	888
Alameda Police Team	811
Highway Patrol Team	796
Sheriff's Office Team	774
Richmond Police Team	773

...It gives me great pleasure at this time to compliment and commend these officers for their splendid showing in this contest and also for their untiring efforts in the matter of practice.

Lieutenant Alex Trotter, in charge of the police school of target instruction and his assistant, Sergeant Ira Reedy, are also to be commended for their painstaking efforts in bringing this team to such a high point of efficiency in the matter of the use of the revolver.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES T. DREW,
Chief of Police

* * * * *



Officer Joseph Tusher

Oakland, California
January 14, 1932

James T. Drew
Chief of Police

Dear Mr. Drew: -- No doubt you have seen a person, in circumstances which were very trying, who seemed to have every reason and authority to show ill-temper and disgust, but instead displayed the finest spirit of helpfulness with genuine courtesy. Your respect for that individual was increased because he proved that he was a real man.

On November 27, 1931, I had occasion to see an example of a similar experience and choose to call it to your attention, for it is about one of your men, Police Officer No. 199, Mr. Joseph Tusher.

On Fourteenth Street and Broadway, I happened to be in the midst of a traffic tieup, which was caused by the ignorance of a new driver. Officer Tusher calmed the excited drivers who were involved by his very manner and after explaining the mistake to the man at fault in kind but firm way (the man was just starting on a new job after months of unemployment) he sent everyone happily on.

Of course he was only doing his duty and it is not my desire to commend him for what he did, but the manner in which he did it and the wonderful human spirit shown deserves a great deal of praise.

Sincerely yours,

Ray H. Bishop

* * * * *

The United Service Detective
and Protective Agency
San Francisco, California
March 30, 1932

Dear Chief Drew: -- I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the utmost cooperation given me and my operatives by the police officers and inspectors of the city of Oakland during the recent clean-up of skylight burglars and hop heads who have been menacing the stores of the Oakland MacMarr Division.

In regards to the twenty-seven police officers that were locked in the stores, not one complaint was received and they gave my supervising operatives their utmost cooperation, which was greatly appreciated.

Police Officer Schmidt, who apprehended the burglar on his entry into store No. 612, located at 3244 Foothill Boulevard, is to be highly commended on the efficient manner in which he handled the situation.

The work of Inspectors Kyle and Ring, also Van Houtte and Garrett, was very efficient and their efforts and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

I take this privilege of expressing my appreciation both for myself and for the executives of the Safeway, MacMarr, Oakland Division...

Very truly yours,

United Service Detective Agency
by R. E. Junker, Manager

* * * * *

April 28, 1932

James T. Drew , Chief of Police
Oakland, California

Dear Mr. Drew: -- May I in behalf of the Board of Directors of The Forum extend to you our sincere appreciation of the splendid service rendered by your men on the occasion of The Forum's lecture given by Marie, Grand Duchess of Russia, at the Auditorium Theater Monday evening, April 25.

The numerous men you stationed at the Theater were so courteous and efficient in every way. The police escort you gave our machine carrying the Grand Duchess from the Auditorium Theater to the Claremont Country Club was absolutely perfect. At the Claremont Country Club, the men, both at the reception and stationed without, gave us all a feeling of entire security.

The unfortunate occurrence of the distribution of anonymous circulars and letters created a most uncomfortable feeling among many of our members. Its effect was to reduce our attendance a few hundred. I think had it not been for the excellent police protection, there would have been a feeling of extreme anxiety which was absolutely removed.

Expressing my personal gratitude and that of our directors, I am

Sincerely yours,

Annie Florence Brown, President

* * * * *

American Red Cross
Oakland Chapter
April 12, 1934

Dear Mr. Wallman:

I happened to be present at the Oakland Ice Rink a few weeks ago when one of the skaters was so unfortunate as to break her leg rather badly, and ever since that time I have been intending to write you to express my personal appreciation for the careful way in which your ambulance officers handled the patient.

They arrived promptly, applied a temporary splint very efficiently, and removed her to the ambulance and transported her to the hospital in a thoroughly competent manner.

I shall be much obliged if you will give my regards to the two officers and express to them my personal appreciation. I am told that the men in charge of the ambulance that night were Joe Teehan and James Arnold.

Very sincerely yours,

J. W. Garthwaite,
Chairman

* * * * *

Oakland Public Schools
November 25, 1935

Dear Chief Wallman: -- Members of the Oakland Public Schools and the Oakland Council of Parents and Teachers wish to express their appreciation for your splendid



Eastern Division Ambulance Officer
Ed O'Brien -- 1930s

cooperation in the Annual Charity Football Game held at the University of California Memorial Stadium on Wednesday, November 6th.

This year more than 22,000 persons witnessed the game, a record attendance. The net proceeds were \$5,700. All of the income from the game will be used to help feed and clothe needy school children.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. F. Ewing,
General Chairman

* * * * *

Oakland Service Board
March 2, 1938

Dear Chief:

The members of the Civil Service Board have asked me to express their sincere appreciation for the valuable service rendered by Lieutenant Anderson and his assistants



Leland Trowbridge

in fingerprinting candidates, and also by the several policemen in uniform who preserved order at our recent Athletic Examination for Patrolman...

T. G. Stahlberg,
Secretary and Chief Examiner

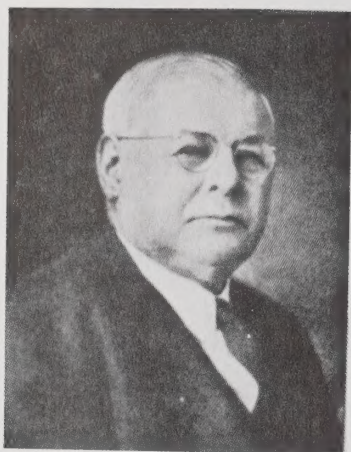
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Hattiesburg, Mississippi
February 24, 1939

Hon. L. S. Trowbridge,
Police Inspector,
Oakland, California

My Dear Inspector: -- Permit me to write a few lines and give expression to my sincere gratitude to you and Inspector Hamm for the splendid impress both of you made upon the court and all with whom you came in contact while in New Orleans as witnesses for the State of Louisiana in the Myrtle Barnes murder trial.

As counsel for Myrtle Barnes I desire to say that it was the source of inspiration and encouragement to see men of your type -- who had the ability to tell a straightforward story, uncolored by interest or bias -- and whose testimony was accepted without cross-examination of counsel.



Captain Thorvald Brown



Captain J. Frank Lynch



Captain Robert Tracy



Captain W. E. Barkus

Four Command Officers

I trust that, at some future date, before the rustle and bustle of this transitory life shall have ended, it will be my good fortune for our paths to cross once more.

While I am happy to confess my limitations and say that I am nothing more than a mere country lawyer from the piney woods of Mississippi, yet God endowed me with the ability to analyze and judge men -- and my impression of you two gentlemen is such that I say with unreserved candor it was a genuine pleasure to have met both of you.

Your friend,

Earle L. Wingo

* * * * *

Works Projects Administration
Safest Routes for Elementary School Children
Project No. 11586
July 3, 1940

Captain Ira F. Reedy,
Traffic Division, Police Department
Oakland, California

Dear Captain Reedy:-- With the closing of this Project today and in writing the final report of the work accomplished, I have had time to fully realize the debt I owe you for the amount of time and cooperation given me during the months we have been at work here.

I feel that we would not have accomplished the work we did without your cooperation and assistance and my thanks are due you in large measure.

I want to thank you for all this and for the courtesy extended by you and your Department in helping us out at all times.

Sincerely yours,

H. R. Putland

The Approach of War

The 1930s began with a vast economic depression and ended with the world at war. Through most of the decade, Americans concentrated on domestic issues, ignoring foreign events except when there was sensational news. But as the decade wore on, they began to give more and more attention to foreign events. They began to sense the approach of war, and many reacted with anger and apprehension. In Oakland every conceivable opinion on what to do was argued passionately.

The Police Department kept the peace between the contending factions -- radicals, liberals, conservatives, and reactionaries -- all of whom were, at one time or another,

isolationists or interventionists. Later, as war came closer, and the country began preparing to defend itself, the Department was called upon to assist the Army and the FBI.

On January 20, 1933, Adolph Hitler took power in Germany.

- An early local portent of things to come occurred seven months later, in August, when the "Emergency Campaign for the Relief of German Jewry" held a fund raising event at the Oakland Auditorium. Afterwards, the Campaign's Secretary wrote to Chief Drew "...to commend the very efficient service given us by the members of the Police Department when we conducted our Mass Meeting...We deeply appreciate the many courtesies shown to the large audience that attended by members of your department."
- The German Cruiser Karlsruhe* visited Oakland and was feted by the Steuben Society of America. The chairman of the event wrote Chief Wallman saying, "On behalf of all the committees for the reception...and of all our German-American citizens and friends in Oakland and the East Bay district, we thank you and all the splendid police officers under your command who helped to make this occasion a memorable one, without any marring incident whatever."

In 1935 the Department responded to a mutual aid request from the Berkeley Police Department by sending Lieutenant Ira Reedy and twenty patrolmen to stand by as emergency force in connection with a student anti-war strike. The pace of student activities increased over the next five years, with parades and demonstrations supporting isolationism and attacking the draft.

In 1938, when the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs began to consider building a major naval supply center on the West Coast, one expert testified that the essentials for a supply depot were, "First, proximity to the fleet anchorage; second, accessibility to the railroad terminal; third, accessibility to markets and sources of supply; fourth, accessibility to shipping and berthing piers; fifth, accessibility for the mobilization and loading of merchant vessels taken over by the navy for war purposes.' Mayor McCracken and other spokesmen for the City argued that Oakland amply met these requirements.

When the hearings concluded, the Senate Committee chose Oakland. One writer described the depot site as "a watery marsh on the western edge of Oakland, a favorite spot for duck hunters." The Navy purchased five hundred acres from the City for one dollar and an additional forty-five acres from the Southern Pacific Railroad.

On September 1, 1939, Germany attacked Poland, and the World War began.

- By coincidence, on September 2, Japanese aviators on a round-the-world "good will" flight landed at Oakland Municipal Airport. Anti-Japanese demonstrations had met them in Seattle, but not in Oakland. "A crowd of Japanese-Americans greeted the fliers," the Tribune reported, "with cries of 'Banzai.'" Police officers held back the crowd and guarded the airplane.

*The Karlsruhe was sunk by the Royal Navy during the German invasion of Norway in 1940.



Sailors from the Karlsruhe parade through downtown Oakland in 1935. One observer said, "They said 'Heil Hitler' and made the German salute after practically every sentence."

- The war created an enormous demand for ships, and led to the revival of ship building in Oakland, and the creation of thousands of new jobs.
- War relief programs began, with the British effort being on the largest scale. In April 1941, for example, the famous Music Hall star Gracie Fields appeared at the Oakland Auditorium on behalf of English war charities, and she was followed a month later by Lady Halifax, the wife of the British Ambassador.
- Interventionist and isolationist groups grew increasingly active and combative. Members of the Committee to Defend America and the rival America First Committee held meetings in the Municipal Theater, and sometimes came to blows. In September, 1941, the America First Committee brought Senator Burton K. Wheeler, its leading spokesman, to Oakland.
- In January, 1941, the War Department condemned 74 acres of the Port of Oakland's western waterfront for an Army supply depot.

As the Army expanded, Departmental cooperation with military personnel grew, ranging from the escort of convoys to the training of military policemen. After the President declared a state of national emergency, the Department was called upon to assist the FBI in the conduct of security-oriented investigations. Work on the Oakland Army Base and the Naval Supply Center proceeded steadily through the summer and on into the winter.

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, Japan attacked the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor.

Special Thanks to:

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